CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 46 – The Church Faces New Problems

1. *Immigrants Disregard Puritan Sabbath*
   a. *Sundays were regarded as "Puritan Sabbath" with no activity all throughout the day (no business, picnics, etc.), but the German Lutherans and Catholics brought with them the so-called "Continental Sabbath" – where they go to Church in the Morning then do pleasure for the rest of the Day, it was described as "Berlin in the morning, and Paris in the afternoon and evening."*
2. *Tenement Evangelism*
   a. *Training amongst churches was targeted to spread the Gospel to poor immigrants who lived in city blocks of houses; special language program were installed in Bible Seminaries to cater to these immigrants*
   b. *While the Indians were pushed back by the spread of the immigrants in the frontier, the Indians were herded in reservation, and the missions were also targeted to these groups*
3. *Wealth Influences the Church*
   a. *With the new industrial age churches began to place great emphasis on business efficiency. Successful businessmen were given places on the financial boards of the churches*
   b. *It was during this period that wealthy men founded, in various parts of the country, the University of Chicago, McCormick Seminary, Cornell and Leland Stanford universities, and four women's colleges – Vassar, Smith, Wellesley, and Bryn Mawr. Many of these centers of learning were established as Christian institutions, by men who realized that they were only stewards of the wealth God had given them*
4. *Social Problems*
   a. *During the period of industrial growth and increasing national wealth many churches came to lay great emphasis on social work in the community; to meet the problems arising from these conditions the so-called institutional church was developed*
5. *Religious Education*
   a. *One of the most striking features of the history of the churches in America since 1880 is the growing preoccupation of these churches with the problem of religious education*

   b. *Sunday schools were revitalized as well as special sessions for religious education; the Catholics, Lutherans, Adventists, and other Reformed churches also opened their own schools to incorporate religious studies in all subjects notwithstanding*

   c. *The Baptists and other denominations opened basic education schools to teach; with these private institutions run by the religious groups, learning proved to be better than public school systems*

6. *Problems of Peace and War*
   a. *In World War I, most church leaders and churches chose war as a means to end all wars, thus justified to prevent further suffering, causing some misunderstanding and imprisonment of those who openly opposed to the idea*
   b. *In World War II, most did not support the war as the end of it because of the nuclear weapons*
7. *Modernism in Recent Years*
   a. *The Liberalism of the present day, often called Modernism, has led thousands of worshippers toward a vague, unfounded, and unsatisfying faith. Because in its teachings many fine sentiments are included it is apt to be attractive to those who are not well-grounded in Scriptural truth*
   b. *Then came the financial crash of 1929, and later World War II with all its horrors and cruelties. It was plain to see that the human race was as sinful and imperfect as it ever had been and was not making steady progress toward a better world*

8. *Missionary Activity*
   a. *The War with Spain in 1898 opened up the Philippine Islands and Puerto Rico to Protestant missions*

   b. *As a result of Modernism in the churches the supply of money and men for missions began to drop at an alarming rate*

   c.. *The spirit of nationalism in these emerging cultures made the position of missionaries difficult. They were looked upon as agents of the West. Christianity was regarded as an enemy of native religions. With the end of the services of the alien missionary in sight, missions placed great emphasis on the training of native leaders and on the organization of the young Church as a native institution*